

# **SEPTEMBER IS NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH**

Preparedness month is an annual campaign designed to encourage Americans to take steps to prepare for emergencies in their homes, schools, organizations, businesses and communities. Our goal is to encourage you – as individuals and families – to pledge to prepare during the month of September, as well as hoping you and your family will continue to make preparedness a part of your daily life, every day, moving forward.

**Here are a few easy steps for you and your family to take to get involved and be better prepared:**

## **Step 1: Pledge to Prepare**

Go to [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov) for ways to begin preparing. Also check out [www.fema.gov/medialibrary/collections/1124](http://www.fema.gov/medialibrary/collections/1124) for a variety of learning videos.

## **Step 2: Take a Free Online Preparedness Course**

The "*Are You Ready? An In-Depth Guide to Citizen Preparedness*" was created in partnership with the Emergency Management Institute, and designed to help citizens learn how to protect themselves and their families against all types of hazards. It can be used as a reference source or as a step-by-step manual. The focus of the content is on how to develop, practice, and maintain emergency plans that reflect what must be done before, during, and after a disaster to protect people and their property.

Also included is information on how to assemble a disaster supplies kit that contains the food, water, and other supplies in sufficient quantity for individuals and their families to survive. You can find the complete course here: <http://www.training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/courseOverview.aspx?code=IS-22>, or you can request a free hard copy of this book be mailed to you by calling 800-480-2520

## **Step 3: Implement Simple Preparedness Activities**

### **Some simple activities should include:**

- **TALK WITH YOUR FAMILY.** Determine the most likely emergencies/disaster that could affect you.
- Purchase a NOAA All Hazard Weather Radio (with S.A.M.E. technology)
- Create a disaster kit <http://www.ready.gov/build-a-kit>
- Research [Preparing for utility outages](#). It's a facilitator's guide, but can easily be adapted to family/homes.
- Research [How to use a fire extinguisher](#). It too is a facilitator's guide, but it can be easily adapted to family/home.

If you have any further questions, please visit the Bay County website, Emergency Services page: <http://baycounty-mi.gov/ESHS/>